

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Milpitas Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Department of Public Works (DPW) coordinated their efforts leading up to the storm this past week and weekend, to keep the Milpitas community informed and prepared. The DPW crews preemptively organized for the anticipated rains – testing pumping systems, emergency power systems, and inspecting/cleaning catch basins. The OES provided social media blasts providing residents with information on where to obtain and "how-to" fill a sandbag, how to prepare a home emergency kit, and notification of the dangers to not walk or drive in flooded areas. OES Coordinator Toni Charlop stated "my foremost objective is to prepare and protect the community, (DPW & OES) including coordinating City efforts in preparation of the storm". DPW Director Nina Hawk concurred, "In September 2015, \$557,086 was authorized by City Council to improve the City's storm system in preparation for heavy rain anticipated as part of last year's El Nino. This included emergency power and reliability work on City storm pump stations. This investment allowed DPW to complete several repairs and improvements. This investment and planning, has been integral in helping the City protect its community."